

REVIEW

CHINA AND INTERNATIONAL LAW IN THE 21ST CENTURY

by Eric Yong Joong Lee (ed.)
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CHINA AND INTERNATIONAL LAW IN THE 21ST CENTURY is a collection of nineteen articles written by contemporary Chinese international lawyers. The research scope covers those six fields as Security and Human Rights, Maritime Affairs, Environment, Economy and Trade, Civil Aviation and Space Development, and Private International Law. Further, these research articles conduct in-depth discussion on certain pertinent issues of each field. In the part of <Security and Human Rights>, *e.g.*, three scholars have analyzed critical questions regarding Tibet, PSI, and ethnic minorities. They are well representing today's perspectives of Chinese international lawyers on this highly debatable political questions. The territorial dispute between China and its neighbors as well as repression of piracy have been discussed in <Maritime Affairs>. This book also contains papers on the marine ecological damage and clean development mechanism of China in <Environment>. A few cutting-edge topics such as the opening of international air transport service, disaster management, development of Asia space law, and prevention of space militarization have been also tackled in <Civil Aviation and Space Development>. <Economy and Trade> have contained articles on the cross-Strait economic cooperation, human rights conditionality in international economic cooperation, IP, and ASEAN. This book also includes an article regarding the new development of private international law in China.

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All the fields analyzed in the book are of great significance to both the Chinese government and academia of international law, because they reflect the current points of contention in China. In addition, the book has effectively introduced major achievements in international law research of China. Through these research outcomes, the international community could ensure the greater visibility about the Chinese scholars' views, thereby, providing a balanced platform for discussing issues on China and international law in detail. Although there are several journals and books engaged in the international law addressing the China related affairs, the book is unique and uncommon in the sense that it focuses on such special interest

In recent, the number of Chinese scholars researching international law has been considerably increasing. As most of the research outcomes is both composed and published in Chinese in the form of periodicals, non-Chinese speakers must have difficulties in benefitting from these researches. As a result, this invaluable research may have a limited international influence. Under this circumstance, the book, edited by Prof. Eric Yong Joong Lee, President of the YIJUN Institute of International Law, is of great importance. It has masterfully created an occasion for Chinese scholars to extensively showcase the unheard voices. At this current juncture, Prof. Lee's book, in the reviewer's personal opinion, is most likely to further promote the development as well as understanding of Chinese international law.

However, some trifling difficulties, inevitably, exist in the book. *E.g.*, the proportion of research articles on public international law, international economic law and private international law are at a striking imbalance. As a whole, the articles on public international law are more dominant than those on international economic law and private international law. Currently in China, there are many issues worthy of in-depth study especially in the latter two fields. In international economic law, noticeable are those topics as the Chinese accession protocol to WTO, the Shanghai Pilot Free Trade Zone, and the Silk Road Free Trade Area construction. In private international law, lawsuit on Japan's postwar compensation, to name a few, is very critical.